

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A system for abstraction and distinction of content objects, wherein the  
2 system comprises:

3                   an abstraction engine communicably coupled to a first plurality of content  
4 object entities;

5                   a distinction engine communicably coupled to a second plurality of content  
6 object entities;

7                   wherein the first plurality of content object entities includes at least two  
8 content object entities selected from a group consisting of: an appliance control system, a  
9 telephone information system, a storage medium including video objects, a storage medium  
10 including audio objects, an audio stream source, a video stream source, a human interface, the  
11 Internet, and an interactive content entity; and

12                  wherein the second plurality of content object entities includes at least two  
13 content object entities selected from a group consisting of: an appliance control system, a  
14 telephone information system, a storage medium including video objects, a storage medium  
15 including audio objects, a human interface, the Internet, and an interactive content entity.

1                   2.       The system of claim 1, wherein two or more of the content object  
2 entities are maintained on separate partitions of a common database.

1                   3.       The system of claim 2, wherein the common database is partitioned  
2 using a content based schema.

1                   4.       The system of claim 2, wherein the common database is partitioned  
2 using a user based schema.

1                   5.       The system of claim 1, wherein the abstraction engine is operable to  
2 receive a content object from one of the first plurality of content object entities, and to form  
3 the content object into an abstract format.

1                   6.       The system of claim 1, wherein the abstraction engine is operable to  
2 receive a first content object from one of the first content object entities and to derive a  
3 second content object based on the first content object, wherein the abstraction engine is  
4 further operable to receive a third content object from one of the first content object entities  
5 and to derive a fourth content object based on the third content object, and wherein the

6 abstraction engine is further operable to combine the second content object and the fourth  
7 content object to create a fifth content object.

1 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the distinction engine is operable to  
2 format the fifth content object such that the fifth content object is compatible with a selected  
3 one of the second plurality of content object entities.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein the abstraction engine is operable to  
2 receive a content object from one of the first plurality of content object entities and to form  
3 the content object into an abstract format, and wherein the distinguishing engine is operable  
4 to conform the abstracted content object with a standard compatible with a selected one of the  
5 second plurality of content objects.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:  
2 an access point, wherein the access point indicates a number of content objects  
3 associated with the first plurality of content object entities, and one or more of the second  
4 plurality of content object entities to which respective content objects of the number of  
5 content object entities can be directed.

1 10. A method for utilizing content objects, wherein the method comprises:  
2 accessing a first content object from a first content object entity;  
3 abstracting the first content object to create a second content object;  
4 distinguishing the second content object to create a third content object,  
5 wherein the third content object is compatible with a second content object entity; and  
6 providing the third content object to the second content object entity.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 accessing a fourth content object from a third content object entity;  
3 abstracting the fourth content object to create a fifth content object; and  
4 combining the fifth content object with the second content object, wherein the  
5 combination of the second and fifth content objects are distinguished to create the third  
6 content object.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first content object is a video  
2 object, and wherein the fourth content object is an audio object.

1                   13.     The method of claim 12, wherein abstracting the first content object  
2 includes separating an audio portion from a video portion of the video object.

1                   14.     The method of claim 11, wherein the first content object is a video  
2 object, and wherein the fourth content object is an Internet object.

1                   15.     The method of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises:  
2 identifying a content object associated with one of the first plurality of content  
3 object entities that has expired; and  
4 removing the identified content object.

1                   16.     The method of claim 10, wherein the first content object is a video  
2 object, wherein abstracting the first content object includes removing a visual portion of the  
3 video object, and wherein the second content object includes an audio portion of the video  
4 object.

1                   17.     The method of claim 10, wherein the first content object entity is one  
2 of a first plurality of content object entities, wherein the second content object entity is one of  
3 a second plurality of content object entities, and wherein the method further comprises:  
4 querying each of the first plurality of content object entities to identify a first  
5 plurality of content objects; and  
6 providing an access point, wherein the access point indicates the first plurality  
7 of content objects, and one or more of the second plurality of content object entities to which  
8 each of the first plurality of content objects can be directed.

1                   18.     A method for accessing content objects within a customer premises,  
2 the method comprising:  
3 identifying content object entities within the customer premises;  
4 grouping the identified content object entities into a first plurality of content  
5 object entities and a second plurality of content object entities, wherein the first plurality of  
6 content object entities are sources of content objects, and wherein the second plurality of  
7 content object entities are destinations of content objects; and  
8 providing an access point, wherein the access point indicates the first plurality  
9 of content objects, and one or more of the second plurality of content object entities to which  
10 each of the first plurality of content objects can be directed.

1                    19.    The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:  
2                    mixing two or more content objects from the first plurality of content object  
3 entities to form a composite content object; and  
4                    providing the composite content object to one of the second plurality of  
5 content object entities.

1                    20.    The method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:  
2                    accessing a first content object from one of the first plurality of content object  
3 entities;  
4                    eliminating a portion of the content included with the first content object to  
5 create a second content object; and  
6                    providing the second content object to one of the second plurality of content  
7 object entities.